

28 Listen and repeat. Then act out.



- **Nouns are:** **abstract** (art, belief, etc), **concrete** (artist, believer, etc), **proper** (Jill, Peter, Portugal, etc), **collective** (group, crowd, team, flock, herd, family, etc) and **common** (woman, dog, etc).
- **There are three genders of nouns:** **masculine** (He – men and boys, animals when we know their sex), **feminine** (She – women and girls, countries, ships and vehicles when regarded with affection or respect, animals when we know their sex) and **neutral** (It – things, babies and animals when we don't know their sex).
- **Most nouns describing people have the same form whether they are male or female.** *teacher, student, etc.* **Some nouns have different forms, though.** *actor – actress, groom – bride, duke – duchess, emperor – empress, heir – heiress, hero – heroine, host – hostess, prince – princess, waiter – waitress, widower – widow, policeman – policewoman, lord – lady, etc.*

The Plural of Nouns

Nouns are made plural by adding:

- **-s to the noun.** (*chair – chairs*)
- **-es to nouns ending in -s, -ss, -x, -ch, -sh or -z.** (*bus – buses, glass – glasses, fox – foxes, torch – torches, brush – brushes, buzz – buzzes*)
- **-ies to nouns ending in consonant + y** (*lady – ladies*) but **-s to nouns ending in vowel + y** (*day – days*).
- **-es to nouns ending in consonant + o** (*potato – potatoes*)
- **-s to nouns ending in vowel + o** (*studio – studios*), **double o** (*zoo – zoos*), **abbreviations** (*photograph / photo – photos, kilos, memos*), **musical instruments** (*piano – pianos*) and **proper nouns** (*Eskimo – Eskimos*). **Some nouns ending in -o can take either -es or -s.** These are: *buffaloes / buffalos, mosquitoes / mosquitos, volcanoes / volcanos, zeroes / zeros, flamingoes / flamingos, tornadoes / tornados, etc.*
- **-ves to some nouns ending in -f/-fe.** (*calf – calves, half – halves, knife – knives, leaf – leaves, life – lives, self – selves, thief – thieves, wolf – wolves*) (**BUT** *belief – beliefs, chief – chiefs, cliff – cliffs, handkerchief – handkerchiefs, hoof – hoofs/hoooves, roof – roofs, safe – safes, giraffe – giraffes*)
- **Some nouns of Greek or Latin origin form their plural by adding Greek or Latin suffixes.** *basis – bases, crisis – crises, terminus – termini, criterion – criteria, phenomenon – phenomena, stimulus – stimuli, datum – data, medium – media, etc.*

Compound nouns form their plural by adding **-s/es**:

- **to the second noun** if the compound consists of two nouns. *ball game – ball games*
- **to the noun** if the compound consists of an adjective and a noun. *frying pan – frying pans*
- **to the first noun** if the compound consists of two nouns connected by a preposition or to the noun if the compound has only one noun. *mother-in-law – mothers-in-law, passer-by – passers-by*
- **at the end of the compound** if it does not include any nouns. *letdown – letdowns*

- **Irregular Plurals:** man – **men**, woman – **women**, foot – **feet**, tooth – **teeth**, goose – **geese**, louse – **lice**, mouse – **mice**, sheep – **sheep**, deer – **deer**, fish – **fish**, trout – **trout**, ox – **oxen**, child – **children**, salmon – **salmon**, spacecraft – **spacecraft**, aircraft – **aircraft**, hovercraft – **hovercraft**, means – **means**, species – **species**

1 Write the plural of the following nouns.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1 nanny | ..nannies.. | 11 bush | ..... | 21 aircraft | ..... |
| 2 father-in-law | ..... | 12 pen-friend | ..... | 22 watch | ..... |
| 3 headache | ..... | 13 video | ..... | 23 crisis | ..... |
| 4 dictionary | ..... | 14 passer-by | ..... | 24 bay | ..... |
| 5 zoo-keeper | ..... | 15 violin | ..... | 25 flamingo | ..... |
| 6 phone | ..... | 16 wife | ..... | 26 taxi driver | ..... |
| 7 hoof | ..... | 17 volcano | ..... | 27 potato | ..... |
| 8 radio | ..... | 18 mouse | ..... | 28 safe | ..... |
| 9 train robbery | ..... | 19 godfather | ..... | 29 onlooker | ..... |
| 10 painkiller | ..... | 20 wish | ..... | 30 walking stick | ..... |

2 Write the plural of the nouns in brackets.

London ZOO

London Zoo has been open to the public since 1847. Today, it holds around 755
 1) ..species.. (**species**) of animals, making it one of the biggest 2) (**zoo**)
 in Britain. Although London Zoo is not home to many large animals such as
 3) (**rhino**) or 4) (**elephant**), there is still a lot to see! Our
 aquarium contains thousands of colourful 5) (**fish**) from around the
 world and the amazing Gorilla Kingdom holds a number of 6) (**gorilla**)!
 Another popular section of the zoo is Into Africa. Here you can see a number of Africa's
 wild 7) (**beast**) including 8) (**zebra**) and 9)
 (**giraffe**). Also, don't miss the chance to take fantastic 10) (**photo**) at
 Butterfly Paradise; one of the biggest collections of 11) (**butterfly**)
 in London. So, for the perfect day out for both 12) (**adult**) and
 13) (**child**), come and visit London Zoo!



3 Complete each pair below by adding the male or female equivalent.

- | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1 actor | ..actress.. | 6 host | ..... | 11 | ..... | bride |
| 2 | ..... | 7 heir | ..... | 12 lord | ..... |  |
| 3 prince | ..... | 8 teacher | ..... | 13 | ..... | widow |
| 4 | ..... | 9 | ..... | 14 policeman | ..... |  |
| 5 | ..... | 10 duke | ..... | 15 pilot | ..... |  |

4

Match the items in column A to the ones in column B to make compound nouns. Then, form the plural.

A	B	
1 <input type="text" value="g"/> ball	a card	1 ball game – ball games
2 <input type="text"/> fishing	b hole	2
3 <input type="text"/> run	c pan	3
4 <input type="text"/> bus	d print	4
5 <input type="text"/> passer	e room	5
6 <input type="text"/> key	f away	6
7 <input type="text"/> foot	g game	7
8 <input type="text"/> frying	h boat	8
9 <input type="text"/> dining	i by	9
10 <input type="text"/> credit	j driver	10

Countable – Uncountable Nouns

Nouns can be **countable** (those that can be counted) *1 book, 2 books, etc.* – or **uncountable** (those that can't be counted) *flour*. Uncountable nouns take a singular verb. *Information is available at the front desk.* They are not used with **a / an**. **Some, any, no, much**, etc. can be used with them. *I need some advice.* (NOT: ~~an~~ advice). But we say: **a relief, a pity, a shame, a wonder, a knowledge (of sth), a help** although they are uncountable. *What a pity! It's such a shame!*

The most common **uncountable** nouns are:

- **Mass nouns: fluids:** blood, coffee, juice, milk, oil, tea, water, etc., **solids:** bread, butter, china, coal, fish (meaning food), food, fruit, glass, ice, iron, meat, soap, etc., **gases:** air, oxygen, pollution, smoke, smog, steam, etc., **particles:** corn, dust, flour, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sand, sugar, wheat, etc.).
- **Subjects of study:** Chemistry, Economics, History, Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, etc.
- **Languages:** Japanese, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, etc.
- **Games:** baseball, billiards, chess, football, golf, rugby, hockey, tennis, etc.
- **Diseases:** flu, measles, mumps, etc.
- **Natural phenomena:** darkness, fog, gravity, hail, heat, humidity, lightning, rain (BUT **the rains** = season of continuous rain in tropical countries), snow, sunshine, thunder, weather, wind, etc.
- **Some abstract nouns:** accommodation, advice, anger, applause, assistance, behaviour, business, chaos, countryside, courage, damage, dirt, education, evidence, housework, homework, information, intelligence, knowledge, luck, music, news, peace, progress, seaside, shopping, traffic, trouble, truth, wealth, work, etc.
- **Collective nouns:** baggage, crockery, cutlery, furniture, jewellery, luggage, machinery, money, rubbish, stationery, etc.
- **Many uncountable nouns can be made countable by adding a partitive:**
a piece of paper/cake/information/advice/furniture; a glass/bottle of water/lemonade/iced tea; a jar of jam; a sheet of paper; a box of chocolates; a packet of pasta; a slice/loaf of bread; a pot of yoghurt; a pot/cup of tea; a kilo/pound of meat; a tube of toothpaste; a bar of chocolate/soap; a bit/piece of chalk; an ice cube; a lump of sugar; a bag of flour; a pair of trousers; a game of football; a(n) item/piece of news; a drop/bottle of oil; a tin of salmon; a can of cola; a carton of milk; a block of wood; a flash/bolt of lightning; a clap/peal of thunder, etc.
- **Some nouns take only a plural verb. These are objects which consist of two parts: garments** (pyjamas, trousers, etc.), **tools** (scissors, pliers, etc.), **instruments** (binoculars, compasses, spectacles, etc.) or **nouns** such as: arms, ashes, barracks, clothes, congratulations, earnings, (good) looks, outskirts, people, police, premises, riches, stairs, surroundings, wages, etc.

- **Group nouns** refer to a group of people. These nouns can take either a singular or a plural verb depending on whether we see the group as a whole or as individuals. Such **group nouns** are: army, audience, class, club, committee, company, council, crew, crowd, headquarters, family, jury, government, press, public, staff, team, etc. *The team was the best in the country.* (= the team as a group); *The team were all given medals.* (= each member separately as individuals)
- With expressions of **duration, distance or money** meaning 'a whole amount' we use a singular verb. *Two weeks isn't long to wait. Ten miles is a long way to ride. Ten thousand pounds is too much to spend on house repairs.*

Some nouns can be used as countable or uncountable, with a difference in meaning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Give me a piece of paper , please! | • The police asked to see his papers . (documents) |
| • The needle of a compass always points North. | • You can draw a perfect circle with compasses . |
| • It is a custom to give presents at birthdays. | • All plane passengers were searched at customs . |
| • She has a lot of experience in teaching. | • We had lots of exciting experiences on our trip. |
| • Would you like a glass of milk? | • He can't see very well without his glasses . (spectacles) |
| • She has got long, blonde hair . (head of hair) | • There are two hairs in your milk! (2 single hairs) |
| • They were shocked at the scale of the disaster. | • She weighed herself on the scales . (weighing machine) |
| • The bowl is made of wood . (the material) | • The girls got lost in the woods . (forest) |
| • He goes to work every day except Sunday. | • Picasso's works are really fascinating. (creations) |
| • There were many people waiting outside. | • All peoples of the world should live in peace. (nations) |
| • Don't go out in the rain without an umbrella. | • In some climates the rains come twice a year. |

5 Write (C) if the noun is countable or (U) if it is uncountable, as in the example.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 child ..C.. | 4 fruit | 7 desk | 10 oil |
| 2 Literature | 5 dirt | 8 butter | 11 smog |
| 3 host | 6 news | 9 leaf | 12 golf |

6 Suzanne is going into town to buy the items in the pictures below. Write out her shopping list.

1 .. a carton of milk ..

2 ..

3 ..

4 ..

5 ..

6 ..

7 ..

8 ..

9

Nouns / Word Formation / Articles

- 7 Fill in the gaps with an appropriate noun + *of* to indicate quantity. More than one answer may be possible.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|---------|
| 1 a | <i>bolt / flash of</i> | lightning | 5 a | ..... | sugar |
| 2 a | ..... | chalk | 6 a | ..... | meat |
| 3 a | ..... | football | 7 a | ..... | thunder |
| 4 a | ..... | trousers | 8 a | ..... | advice |

- 8 Complete the sentences using the nouns in their *singular or plural form*.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 hair | | 4 work |
| a Lisa has got short, dark <i>hair</i> | | a The museum holds over a thousand
..... of modern art. |
| b Keith brushed off the dog <i>hairs</i>
from his jacket. | | b Paul travels to by bus
every morning. |
| 2 experience | | 5 custom |
| a Anna gained some work
by helping in her father's shop during the
summer. | | a It is a in Japan to take
your shoes off when you enter someone's
house. |
| b John's trip around Asia was full of memorable
..... | | b Frank was asked to open his bag at
..... |
| 3 glass | | 6 wood |
| a Dan couldn't read the menu because he had
forgotten to bring his | | a Pam took her dog for a walk in the
..... |
| b She offered me a of
orange juice. | | b This toy is made of |

- 9 Make the following uncountable nouns *plural*, as in the example.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 furniture – two <i>pieces of furniture</i> | 5 yoghurt – two |
| 2 pasta – two | 6 oil – three |
| 3 paper – four | 7 toothpaste – two |
| 4 lemonade – three | 8 salmon – five |

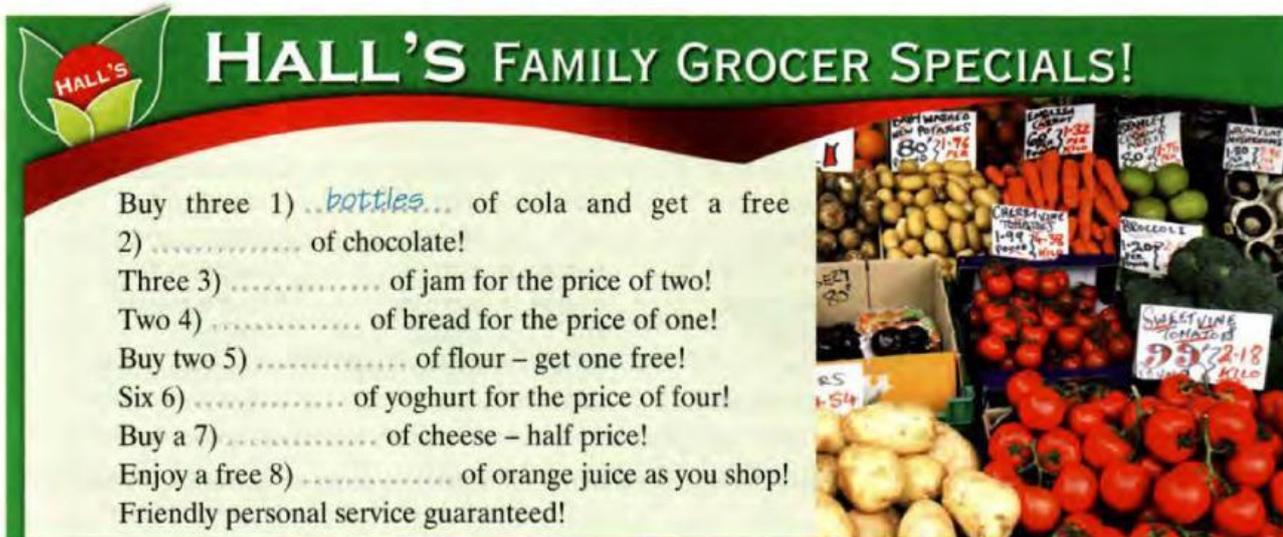
- **A couple of, several, a few, many, a (large, great, good) number of, both**, are followed by a countable noun. **(Too) much, a little, a great/good deal of, a large/small amount/quantity of** are followed by an uncountable noun. **A lot of, lots of, hardly any, some, no, plenty of** are followed by a countable or uncountable noun.

- 10 Underline the expressions which can be used with the nouns, as in the example.

- 1 She has bought a couple of, several, too much, a few, a little, lots of dresses.
- 2 She's got a little, a lot of, hardly any, several, a few experience in the clothes business.
- 3 He drank two, both, some, several, too much glasses of juice.
- 4 She is wearing several, too many, hardly any, too much, no jewellery.
- 5 The fire is going out – you'll have to fetch a little, several, a couple of, some, plenty of wood.
- 6 I've been shopping and I've got no, a few, a little, hardly any, too many money left.
- 7 Steve has already made too much, a little, a few, a couple of, a number of friends.
- 8 Flowers need plenty of, a number of, too many, a great deal of, a lot of water.

11 Fill in the gaps with the words from the list and put them in the correct form.

- bar • bottle • jar • loaf • bag • pot • kilo • glass



HALL'S FAMILY GROCER SPECIALS!

Buy three 1) *bottles* of cola and get a free
 2) of chocolate!
 Three 3) of jam for the price of two!
 Two 4) of bread for the price of one!
 Buy two 5) of flour – get one free!
 Six 6) of yoghurt for the price of four!
 Buy a 7) of cheese – half price!
 Enjoy a free 8) of orange juice as you shop!
 Friendly personal service guaranteed!

12 Fill in: *is* or *are*.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Your jeans <i>are</i> hanging in the wardrobe. | 11 His luggage extremely heavy. |
| 2 Where my scissors? | 12 The news on at 6 o'clock. |
| 3 There a lecture on Economics today. | 13 Mumps a common illness among young children. |
| 4 Physics the study of natural laws. | 14 Sugar bad for your teeth. |
| 5 Where my boxing gloves? | 15 German difficult to learn. |
| 6 This information incorrect! | 16 Chess a popular game. |
| 7 Her hair beautiful. | 17 People starving in many countries. |
| 8 Your socks in the drawer. | 18 Happiness the key to good health. |
| 9 Her furniture very expensive. | 19 There some flour left. |
| 10 The traffic unusually light today. | |

13 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

- Every time I go to the beach, sand *gets* (get) inside my shoes.
- Five miles (be) a long way to walk.
- Milk (be) good for your bones.
- The council (meet) in the town hall every Wednesday.
- Chess (be) his favourite board game.
- Gravity (cause) things to fall towards the ground.
- Greek (be) one of the most difficult languages to learn.
- Music (help) me relax after a long day at work.
- Pepper always (make) me sneeze.
- Those new glasses (look) great on you.
- Chemistry (not/interest) me at all.
- The crockery he designs (cost) a lot of money.